

Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 20 December 1990

The week in statistics ...

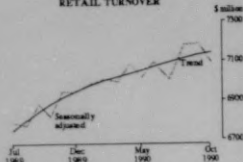
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This is the last *Statistics Weekly* to be released in 1990. The first issue for 1991 will be released on Thursday, 10 January.

Merry Christmas and best wishes for 1991

W. McLENNAN
Acting Australian Statistician

RETAIL TURNOVER



Retail trade still in doldrums

The growth rate for retail trade in Australia continues to slow, following a 1.3 per cent seasonally adjusted decline in turnover in October 1990. The trend estimate current annual growth rate (October 1990 over October 1989) is 3.8 per cent, compared with the growth rate twelve months ago of 10.0 per cent. There has been a continual decline over this period.

Two of the four major industries, grocers and hotels, liquor stores and licensed clubs, are showing moderate growth over the last 3 months (see table below). Department store growth has slowed slightly while clothing and fabric stores are in decline. Apart from pharmacies, which are showing strong growth, all other industries are in decline or showing only moderate growth.

RETAIL TURNOVER

	Original value in October 1990 \$ million	Percentage change in trend estimates	
		Average monthly increase for 3 months to October 1990	October 1990 over October 1989
Grocers etc	2,056	0.5	7.4
Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs	966	0.5	4.7
Department and general stores	782	0.2	2.1
Clothing and fabric stores	528	-0.1	1.0
Other industries	2,816	n.a.	n.a.
All retailers	7,148	0.2	3.8

The best State result was achieved by South Australian retailers with an average growth rate of 1.0 per cent over the last three months. This could be partially due to the staging of the Australian Grand Prix in Adelaide in early November. As this event has only been held since 1985 it has not yet been fully absorbed into the seasonal adjustment process. Victoria and Western Australia are in decline while the remaining states are showing weak to moderate growth.

For further information, order the publication *Retail Trade, Australia (8501.0)*, or contact Bill Powell on (06) 252 6132.

Road deaths — Victoria emerges as major factor in record low levels

A dramatic decline in the number of road accident fatalities in Victoria continues to be a major factor in an improved national road safety record.

A comparison of the number of fatalities for the eleven months ended November 1990 (2,107) with the same period in 1989 (2,489), shows significant decreases in most States and Territories. Exceptions were South Australia (up from 194 to 203) and the Northern Territory (up from 53 to 59).

Victoria shows the largest relative and absolute drop in fatalities. Over 50 per cent of the reduction in fatalities overall was accounted for by that State (down from 706 to 503).

Continued ...

PERSONS KILLED IN ROAD ACCIDENTS
Eleven months ended November

In the month of November 1990, 169 persons were killed on Australian roads. This was the lowest November figure since the series began in 1970.

Fatality rates in November were highest amongst males aged 21 to 25. Overall, the rate for males was more than double that for females.

For further information, order the publication *Road Traffic Accidents Involving Fatalities, Australia (9401.0)*, or contact Choon Looi on (06) 252 5458.

Unemployment up sharply as male employment falls

Falls in both full-time and part-time employment for males contributed to a fall in total employment in November 1990. The number of persons unemployed rose to its highest level since October 1983, due to the increase in the number of unemployed males.

The seasonally adjusted estimate of employed persons was 7,826,100 in November 1990, a fall of 42,500 since October 1990. Falls of 25,700 in male full-time employment and 14,000 in male part-time employment were the main components of this decrease. For females, employment was steady at 3,250,600.

The seasonally adjusted estimate of unemployed persons rose by 48,100 to 698,100 in November 1990. A rise of 40,100 in the number of males looking for full-time work, which now stands at 374,000, was the main component of this increase. Female unemployment rose slightly to 278,800. The seasonally adjusted estimate of the number of 15-19 year olds looking for their first full-time job rose by 9,200 (22%) to 50,700.

The seasonally adjusted estimate of the unemployment rate rose by 0.6 percentage points to 8.2 per cent in November 1990, the highest rate since May 1987. For males the unemployment rate rose by 0.9 percentage points to 8.4 per cent while for females it rose slightly to 7.9 per cent.

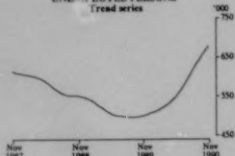
The seasonally adjusted estimate of the labour force participation rate fell by 0.1 percentage points to 63.8 per cent in November 1990.

LABOUR FORCE ESTIMATES Seasonally adjusted

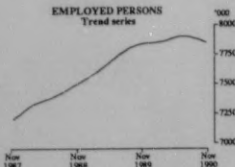
	Employed			Un- employed	Unemploy- ment rate — per cent —	Partic- ipation rate
	Full-time workers	Part-time workers	Total — '000 —			
1990 —						
August	6,232.4	1,660.7	7,893.1	619.7	7.3	64.0
September	6,225.8	1,653.0	7,878.9	633.6	7.4	63.9
October	6,178.7	1,689.9	7,868.6	650.0	7.6	63.9
November	6,153.1	1,673.0	7,826.1	698.1	8.2	63.8

For further information, order the publication *The Labour Force, Australia, Preliminary (6202.0)*, or contact Don Clark (06) 252 6525.

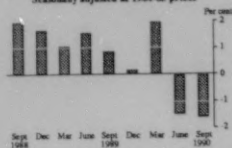
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS
Trend series



EMPLOYED PERSONS
Trend series



QUARTERLY CHANGE IN GROSS PRODUCT
Seasonally adjusted at 1984-85 prices



More evidence of economic contraction

In the September quarter 1990 industry-revalued estimates of gross domestic product (GDP) at constant prices declined by 1.6 per cent in seasonally adjusted terms. This follows a fall of 1.5 per cent in the June quarter.

All three separate measures of GDP and their average have now declined over the last two quarters, and are at a lower level in the September quarter than they were a year earlier.

The decline in economic activity, as in the previous quarter, was widespread. In seasonally adjusted terms the main contributors to the decline were: agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting (-7.1%); wholesale trade (-4.3); finance, property and business services (-3.1%); mining (-3.0%); and manufacturing (-2.2%).

The construction industry, although one of the few industries recording an increase in seasonally adjusted terms for the September quarter 1990 (increasing 0.6%), has some way to go to recover from three previous quarters of decline. From September quarter 1989 to September quarter 1990 constant price gross product declined by 9.6 per cent in this industry.

GROSS PRODUCT, SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1990
Seasonally adjusted at 1984-85 prices

Industry	Gross product \$ million	Percentage change from	
		Previous quarter	Corresponding quarter of previous year
Manufacturing	11,052	-2.2	-3.9
Community services	7,572	-1.7	1.7
Finance, property and business services	7,492	-3.1	1.2
Retail trade	5,044	-0.6	1.6
Mining	5,040	-3.0	7.3
Wholesale trade	4,858	-4.3	-9.9
Construction	4,268	0.6	-9.6
Transport and storage	3,054	0.7	-3.1
Recreation, personal and other services	2,609	0.7	1.8
Electricity, gas and water	2,392	0.2	1.7
Public administration and defence	2,342	-0.7	0.7
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	2,332	-7.1	-2.3
Communication	1,796	-2.7	5.3
Other (ownership of dwellings, import duties, etc.)	4,660	2.9	2.1
Gross domestic product	64,511	-1.6	-1.0

Trend estimates of labour productivity (i.e. gross product per hour worked) declined by 1.4 per cent in the September quarter and by 1.0 per cent in the June quarter.

For further information, order the publication *Australian National Accounts: Gross Product, Employment and Hours Worked (5222.0)*, or contact Alan Tryde on (06) 252 6711.

Stock levels and manufacturers' sales continue downward trend

The level of stocks held by all private businesses and sales by manufacturing businesses both continued to decline in the September quarter 1990.

Preliminary results from the quarterly Survey of Stocks and Manufacturers' Sales show that the value of stocks held at 30 September was 2.6 per cent lower in seasonally adjusted constant price terms than it was at the end of June. The downward trend was widespread amongst the industries covered in the survey. It was the second consecutive quarterly decline in stocks, and confirms the reversal of the trend of the previous seven quarters where stock levels had increased.

STOCKS OF PRIVATE BUSINESSES, 30 SEPTEMBER 1990
Seasonally adjusted at 1984-85 prices

Industry	Stock level \$m	Percentage change since	
		30 June 1990	30 September 1989
Mining	2,326	-2.1	15.3
Manufacturing	16,661	-2.6	0.3
Wholesale trade	12,657	-3.9	-3.7
Retail trade	9,457	-1.1	-2.7
Other selected industries	384	4.6	15.0
All selected industries	41,485	-2.6	-0.8

Turning to the manufacturing industry, the survey shows that stock levels (seasonally adjusted and at constant prices) also fell by 2.6 per cent in the quarter, following a marginal fall in the previous three month period. This returns the value of stocks (in constant price terms) to approximately the same level as twelve months ago.

Sales by manufacturers in the September quarter were 2.4 per cent lower than in the June quarter in seasonally adjusted constant price terms after a 3.6 per cent fall from March to June quarters. These large falls have returned sales (in constant price terms) to the levels of two years ago. Major contributors to the recent decline were the industries which manufacture transport equipment (mainly cars), basic metal products and non-metallic mineral products.

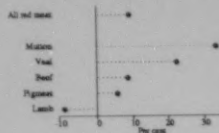
Expected sales data reported by manufacturers indicate that the recent downward trends in actual sales will continue in real terms for the balance of this financial year at least.

The next quarterly survey to be conducted in January 1991 will also ask manufacturers to give expected sales data to the end of December 1991 and hence provide a longer term measure of likely trends in manufacturers' sales.

For further information, order the publication *Stocks, Manufacturers' Sales and Expected Sales, Australia (5629.0)*, or contact Geoff McFarlane on (06) 252 5610.



RED MEAT PRODUCTION
Change October 1989 to October 1990



Large rise in mutton production

Mutton production rose by 22.1 per cent for October 1990 compared with September 1990, as farmers stepped up their efforts to reduce flock size. Sheep slaughtering for the month rose by 24.2 per cent and were almost 33 per cent higher than in October 1989.

LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS, OCTOBER 1990
Percentage change

		From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Cattle slaughtered	Number	5.1	8.2
Calves slaughtered	Number	-34.4	32.7
Sheep slaughtered	Number	24.2	32.9
Lambs slaughtered	Number	12.0	0.2
Pigs slaughtered	Number	0.9	4.6
Mutton	Tonnes	22.1	33.4
Total red meat production	Tonnes	6.6	9.0
Chickens slaughtered	Number	6.1	-5.3
Chicken meat produced	Tonnes	8.4	-3.1
Taxable wool receipts	Tonnes	9.2	10.0

Other trends in livestock products:

- ☐ total red meat production for the 4 months ended October 1990 was 5.3 per cent higher than in the same period for 1989
- ☐ chicken meat production rose by 3.1 per cent for the 4 months ended October 1990 compared with the corresponding period for 1989
- ☐ brokers and dealers receipts of taxable wool fell by 1.3 per cent on the same 4 month comparison
- ☐ whole milk intake by factories fell by 2.3 per cent for the 3 months ended September 1990 when compared with the same period for 1989.

For further information, order the publication *Livestock Products, Australia* (7215.0), or contact Marion Long on (06) 252 5337.

Towards a better understanding of balance of payment statistics

If, as a user of balance of payments statistics, you have ever had difficulties in understanding the underlying concepts or wondered about the sources and methods used in compiling these statistics, the Australian Bureau of Statistics has recently released a new publication that will provide all the explanations you want.

Balance of Payments, Australia: Concepts, Sources and Methods (5331.0) is a 200 page reference manual which provides a comprehensive description of the concepts and structure of the Australian balance of payments and of the data sources and methods used to compile the statistics contained in Australian balance of payments publications.

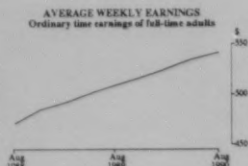
This manual explains what the statistics measure, how they relate to other economic series, how they are produced, where they are published and the factors influencing their accuracy and reliability. The manual also includes, as a quick reference for users, a summary table on the sources and methods used for compiling each balance of payments item.

To order *Balance of Payments, Australia: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (5331.0), contact the ABS office in your capital city (see page 10), or Trevor Jolly on (06) 252 6820.

Earnings rise as the second instalment becomes available

Final estimates for August 1990 show average weekly ordinary time earnings were \$541.00 for full-time adults, up 1.3 per cent from \$534.10 in May. This brings the rise since August last year to 6.4 per cent.

The increase since May 1990 for males was 1.3 per cent to \$574.10, while females also had a 1.3 per cent increase to \$476.30.



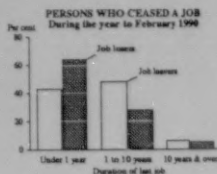
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, AUGUST 1990
Full-time adult persons ordinary time earnings

State	Weekly earnings \$	Percentage change from	
		May 1990	August 1989
New South Wales	553.10	1.0	5.4
Victoria	544.10	1.5	7.0
Queensland	508.60	1.0	6.9
South Australia	521.60	1.7	7.3
Western Australia	542.70	2.3	7.9
Tasmania	526.10	1.1	6.9
Northern Territory	551.40	0.7	6.9
Australian Capital Territory	610.30	2.2	6.8
Australia	541.00	1.3	6.4

Average weekly *total* earnings (includes overtime) for full-time adults increased by 1.1 per cent to \$575.60, an annual increase of 5.9 per cent compared with August 1989.

The rise in earnings is due to the flow-through of the second increase handed down in the National Wage Case decision of August 1989. This decision allowed for an increase of \$15.00 (or 3%, whichever is greater) for skilled workers, \$12.50 for semi-skilled workers and \$10.00 for unskilled workers with a second increase of the same amount no sooner than 6 months after that. Supplementary information obtained during the survey (which should be regarded as indicative only) suggests that approximately 54 per cent of employees have received the second instalment.

Increased job mobility



The extent to which workers change their employer and/or their employment location is an important measure of job mobility. Some 22 per cent of persons who had worked at some time during the year ending February 1990 were 'job mobile'. For 1984, the corresponding result was 14 per cent.

JOB MOBILITY
Persons who worked at some time during the year ending February 1990

Whether changed employer or locality	Persons '000	Per cent
Job mobile	1,898	22
Changed employer/business	1,604	19
Changed locality but not employer/business	294	3
Did not change employer/business or locality	6,730	78
Total	8,628	100

People aged between 20 and 24 were the most job mobile (33%), while those aged 55 to 69 were the least job mobile (8%). There was no difference between the job mobility of males and females.

Some 27 per cent of people working at February 1990 had been in their current job for less than one year.

Of the 8.6 million people who had worked at some time during the year ending February 1990, 26 per cent ceased a job during the year.

Job leavers (people who ceased their last job voluntarily or changed employment location) accounted for 69 per cent of those who ceased a job.

Job losers (people who ceased their last job involuntarily) were predominantly people who had been retrenched (55%). The remainder were mostly in seasonal or temporary jobs, while some were forced out by their own illness or injury. Of those who were retrenched, 60 per cent were men.

For further information, order the publication *Labour Mobility, Australia (6209.0)*, or contact Sue Doyle on (06) 252 7204.

Subscriber feedback

Thank you to all readers who participated in the *Statistics Weekly* subscriber questionnaire in the issue of 18 October. Your responses are a valuable contribution in the client feedback process.

The conclusion drawn from your responses indicate that, on the whole, *Statistics Weekly* is meeting your needs. Overall impression of *Statistics Weekly* is highly favourable, with over 85 per cent rating it good to excellent in all respects.

Continued ...

You have told us that the content is sufficient in most cases, although some respondents have requested 'more detail' in articles, 'larger graphs' and 'longer time series'. These issues are being carefully considered, and in 1991, you will see improvements in the publication in response to your requests.

The section on style and graphics attracted a positive response, with the following comments a fair representation:

'Brief and to the point. One of the best publications I read.'
(a respondent from the Retail Industry)

'Excellent layout — easy to scan for information.'
(a respondent from the Transport Industry)

It is good to know that *Statistics Weekly* is delivering the right information in the right format. We will continue to strive for higher levels of customer satisfaction given this encouragement.

The draw for the free 1991 subscription to *Statistics Weekly* was held on 9 November. Congratulations to the ten lucky winners who are Ms H. Hillman, Warrnambool, Vic.; Mr J. Arizabal, Yarralumla, ACT; Mr R. Osborn, North Sydney, NSW; Mr P. Wallace, Perth, WA; Ms E. Stinson, Newtown, NSW; Mr P. McKeown, Burnie, Tas.; Mr S. Strickland, Rydalmere, NSW; Mr T.M. Lee, Willoughby, NSW; Ms C. Armstrong, Adelaide, SA; and Ms M. Magee, Cleveland, Qld.

This week in brief ...

Extracts from this week's releases.

☐ Ageing population

Preliminary estimates of the Australian population as at 30 June 1990 show that the median age at 30 June 1990 was 32.2 years, an increase of 2.6 years since census year 1981 and an increase of 0.3 years since 30 June 1989. The ageing of the population is the result of lower birth rates and declining mortality over the last two decades.

Source: *Estimated Resident Population by Sex and Age: States and Territories of Australia, June 1989 and Preliminary June 1990* (3201.0).

☐ Imports

Imports for October 1990 rose by \$784 million to \$4,681 million, an increase of 20 per cent compared with September 1990.

Source: *Imports, Australia, Monthly Summary Tables, October 1990* (5433.0).

☐ Water mattresses

In 1989-90 the number of water mattresses over 107cm wide produced in Australia was 93,002, an increase of 75% on 1988-89. The production of water mattresses up to and including 107cm wide increased by 119 per cent over the same period to 18,082 in 1989-90.

Source: *Manufacturing Production, Australia: Fibres, Yarns, Fabrics, Bedding and Floor Coverings, September 1990* (8360.0).

Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- ☐ through its bookshops
- ☐ by mail order (including subscription)
- ☐ by facsimile
- ☐ electronically.

To order any of the publications that appear in *Statistics Weekly* or to inquire about the statistics and services available from the ABS, contact Information Services at any of the offices listed below. An Information Consultancy Service in each office provides assistance of a more extensive or complex nature.

ABS Central Office

PO BOX 10
BELCONNEN ACT 2616
(06) 252 6627
FAX (06) 253 1404

ABS State Offices

NSW (02) 268 4611
Vic. (03) 615 7000
Qld (07) 222 6351
WA (09) 323 5140
SA (08) 237 7100
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NT (089) 81 3456

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Suggestions

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

Peter Damcevski
Editor
Statistics Weekly
(06) 252 6101

All the week's releases: 12 to 18 December

General

Monthly Summary of Statistics, Aust., December 1990 (1304.0; \$17.50)
Statistics Weekly, 13 December 1990 (1318.0; \$3.50)
Time Series Service — Manual (Choice of Priced Packages. Available on Magnetic Tape and Microfiche Only), September Qtr 1990 (1336.0; free)
Economic Indicators, Qld, December 1990 (1307.3; \$5.00)
Queensland at a Glance, 1991 (1312.3; free)
Tasmanian Pocket Yearbook, 1990 (1302.6; \$7.95)
Tasmanian Statistical Indicators, December 1990 (1303.6; \$8.00)
Summary of Statistics, NT, September Qtr 1990 (1305.7; \$8.00)
Territory Business Indicators, NT, December 1990 (1307.7; \$3.00)

Demography

Estimated Resident Population by Sex and Age: States and Territories of Australia, June 1989 and Preliminary June 1990 (3201.0; \$10.00)

Social statistics

Hospital Morbidity, Qld, 1989 (4303.3; \$12.00)

National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Australian National Accounts: Input-Output Tables, 1986-87 (5209.0; \$43.50 includes microfiche)
Australian National Accounts: Input-Output Tables (Commodity Details), 1986-87 (5215.0; \$43.50 includes microfiche)
Australian National Accounts: Gross Product, Employment and Hours Worked, September Qtr 1990 (5222.0; \$8.00)
Imports, Australia, Monthly Summary Tables, October 1990 (5433.0; \$8.00)
Stocks, Manufacturers' Sales, September Quarter 1990 and Expected Sales to June 1991, Australia (5629.0; \$8.50)
Cash Management Trusts, Aust., November 1990 (5635.0; \$3.30)

Labour statistics and prices

The Labour Force, Aust., November 1990, Preliminary (6202.0; \$8.50)
Labour Force Experience, Australia, During the Year Ending March 1990 (6206.0; \$8.00)
Labour Mobility, Australia, During the Year Ending February 1990 (6209.0; \$11.50)
Transition from Education to Work, Aust., May 1990 (6227.0; \$12.50)
The Labour Force, Aust. — Preliminary Data on Floppy Disk, November 1990 (6271.0; \$60.00)
Average Weekly Earnings, States and Aust., August 1990 (6302.0; \$8.50)
Weekly Earnings of Employees (Distribution), Aust., August 1990 (6310.0; \$8.00)
Award Rates of Pay Indexes, Aust., October 1990 (6312.0; \$8.50)
Price Indexes of Materials Used in Coal Mining, Aust., October 1990 (6415.0; \$5.00)

Secondary industry and distribution

Manufacturing Production, Australia: Fibres, Yarns, Fabrics, Bedding and Floor Coverings, September 1990 (8360.0; \$8.50) (Previously: Production of Fibres, Yarns, Fabrics, Bedding and Floor Coverings, Australia)
Manufacturing Production, Australia: Wood and Wood Products, September 1990 (8369.0; \$4.50) — new issue
Retail Trade, Aust., October 1990 (8501.0; \$8.50)
Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, NSW, August 1990 (8741.1; \$8.10)
Building Approvals — Private Sector, Perth Statistical Division, November 1990 (8732.5; \$3.00)
Building Approvals, Tas., October 1990 (8731.6; \$8.50)

Transport

Road Traffic Accidents Involving Fatalities, Aust., November 1990 (9401.0; \$4.00)
Motor Vehicle Registrations, Tas., October 1990 (9303.6; \$3.30)

Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the month to 15 January 1991

December

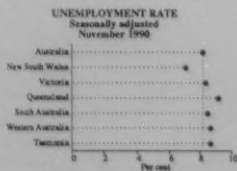
- 19** Export Price Index, Australia, October 1990 (6405.0; \$5.00)
- 20** Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia, October 1990 (5609.0; \$8.00)
- 21** Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, October 1990 (6407.0; \$9.00)
Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, October 1990 (6408.0; \$3.75)
Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia, October 1990 (6412.0; \$6.00)
Quarterly Indexes of Industrial Production, Aust., September Quarter 1990 (8125.0; \$10.00) — *a new issue absorbing Quarterly Indexes of Manufacturing Production, Aust. (8219.0)*
Manufacturing Production, Australia, November 1990, Preliminary (8301.0; \$5.00)
- 24** Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, November 1990, Preliminary (9301.0; \$4.00)

January

- 8** Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia, October 1990 (6411.0; \$10.00)
- 9** Balance of Payments, Australia, November 1990 (5301.0; \$15.00)
- 10** Job Vacancies and Overtime, Australia, November 1990 (6354.0; \$11.50)
- 11** Building Approvals, Australia, November 1990 (8731.0; \$12.50)

The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to
18 December 1990



	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (June qtr 90) [†]	-2.3	-8.2	-5.5	-10.6	-19.6	-21.6	n.a.	n.a.	-8.8
Retail turnover (October 90) (trend estimate)	6.0	-1.5	4.5	7.2	2.1	7.7	n.a.	9.5	3.8
New motor vehicle registrations (October 90) [†]	-2.5	0.0	-4.7	11.9	-12.5	4.3	-0.2	-19.5	-2.9
Number of dwelling unit approvals (October 90)	-2.0	-8.1	-24.1	4.6	-14.0	15.0	158.2	6.4	-9.1
Value of total building work done (June qtr 90)	2.0	-5.4	-26.3	4.0	-15.9	-15.5	-6.0	-7.7	-7.5
Employed persons (November 90) [†]	-0.1	-1.0	0.0	-0.8	-0.3	1.3	-5.1	1.0	-0.3
Capital city consumer price index (Sept. qtr 90)	5.8	6.4	5.3	6.3	7.0	5.5	6.0	6.2	6.0
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (August 90)	5.4	7.0	6.9	7.3	7.9	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.4
Population (June 90)	1.0	1.4	2.6	1.0	2.5	1.2	0.6	2.3	1.5
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc (June qtr 90)	5.4	-0.9	5.7	5.5	-4.1	-1.2	8.5	14.8	3.6

[†] Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. [†] Seasonally adjusted except for Tas, NT and ACT.

Key national indicators – consolidated to 18 December 1990

		Period	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
National production						
Gross domestic product	— current prices	\$m	93,635	93,427	-0.8	3.6
	— 1984-85 prices		63,132	63,670	-1.6	-0.7
Industrial activity						
New capital expenditure	— current prices	\$m	7,188	7,515	6.9	-1.8
	— 1984-85 prices		5,435	5,692	6.4	-4.1
Expected new capital expenditure		Three months to Dec. 90	8,326	n.a.	n.a.	-5.5
Retail turnover	— current prices	"	7,148	7,090	-1.3	4.0
	— 1984-85 prices	Sept. qtr 90	14,213	14,858	0.4	0.4
New motor vehicle registrations		no.	52,627	50,283	-1.2	-2.9
Dwelling unit approvals		October 90	11,341	10,445	-0.8	-12.0
Value of all building approvals		\$m	1,956	1,808	-7.3	-26.5
Value of total building work done	— current prices	"	7,064	7,077	-6.9	-7.5
	— 1984-85 prices	"	4,484	4,493	-7.6	-12.8
Manufacturers' sales		Sept. qtr 90	35,796	34,854	1.3	-0.9
Expected manufacturers' sales		Three months to Dec. 90	37,757	n.a.	n.a.	0.3
Labour						
Employed persons		'000	7,849.9	7,826.1	-0.5	-0.3
Unemployment rate †		%	7.4	8.2	0.6	2.1
Participation rate †		"	63.5	63.8	-0.1	-0.1
Job vacancies		'000	48.1	49.6	-1.3	-25.3
Average weekly overtime per employee		hours	1.2	1.3	-6.5	-17.6
Prices, profits and wages						
Consumer price index	1980-81 = 100.0	Sept. qtr 90	208.9	n.a.	0.7	6.0
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries	1984-85 = 100.0	Sept. 90	128.2	n.a.	4.7	8.9
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry	1988-89 = 100.0	Sept. 90	111.1	n.a.	1.4	6.1
Company profits before income tax	\$m	Sept. qtr 90	3,449	3,337	-4.2	-23.2
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time)	\$	August 90	541.00	n.a.	1.3	6.4
Interest rates (b) (monthly average)						
90-day bank bills †	% per annum	October 90	12.80	n.a.	-0.75	-5.55
10-year Treasury bonds †			13.35	n.a.	-0.30	-0.20
Balance of payments						
Exports of merchandise	\$m	October 90	4,413	4,351	4.7	5.8
Imports of merchandise	"	"	4,580	4,122	1.9	-4.7
Balance on merchandise trade (c)	"	"	-167	229	104.5	n.a.
Balance of goods and services (c)	"	"	-583	-87	56.9	84.2
Balance on current account (c)	"	"	-1,669	-1,194	10.2	31.4
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0	Sept. qtr 90	n.a.	105.3	0.3	-1.8
Foreign investment						
Net foreign debt	\$m	30 Sept. 90	124,507	n.a.	1.4	7.3
Net foreign liabilities			165,572	n.a.	3.3	7.4
Exchange rates (monthly average)						
US\$	per \$A	October 90	0.8030	n.a.	-2.7	3.6
Trade weighted index	May 1970 = 100.0	"	58.6	n.a.	-4.9	-2.5
Other indicators						
Population (resident at end of qtr)	million	June 90	17.1	n.a.	0.3	1.5
Overseas visitors	'000	June 90	157	201	5.6	11.0

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 10).

Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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